REMARKS

This amendment responds to the office action mailed October 6, 2006. In the office action the Examiner rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Bates et al. (US 6,404,446) in view of Dolan et al. (US 5,801,702).

After entry of this amendment, the pending claims are claims 1-15 and 42-47. Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-13 have been amended to clarify the invention and to properly refer back to antecedents. Claims 16-41 have been cancelled as drawn to non-elected subject matter. New claims 42-47 have been added. Support these claims may be found for example, in original claims 1, 2, 4 and 5, and paragraphs 69, and 77.

Before addressing the specific claim limitations, it is noted that the present invention provides a method for associating the text (called annotations in the claims) in or next anchor tags (also called links or outbound links) with the documents pointed to by the anchor tags. The claimed method can be used to organize and (in claims 42-47) index information about a document that resides in other documents in a collection of linked documents so as to produce an index that can return a list of the most relevant documents in response to a user query. The current amendments have been made to clarify this. The "link log" in the claims is a data structure associating a source document with the documents it links to (the list of target documents pointed to by outbound links in the source document). The sorted "anchor map" is a data structure, sorted by target document, associating each respective target document with the documents that link to it (the list of source documents that contain links to the respective target document). Thus, the anchor map is essentially the inverse of the link log.

Bates does not disclose any of the limitations of the independent claims.

Bates discloses a multi-node graphical user interface for displaying linked records. The user interface of Bates generates a map display while navigating hypertext documents to provide a "bread crumb trail" for a user. See, col. 7, lines 3-9. Bates seeks to enhance navigation between documents for a user and is focused on **displaying** search results as opposed to indexing documents based on links between the documents (as in the current application). As stated in the Office Action, Bates teaches a graphic display of linked records. This has nothing to do with the link log, anchor map, or link map of the claims, since these are data structures which need not include display elements, unlike the map display of Bates. Compare, e.g., Figure 10 of the current application with Bates, column 6, lines 31-38, which teaches that the map includes various display elements.

Bates does not disclose the elements of the claims, including:

[from claim 1:] accessing a link log, the link log that comprises a plurality of link records, each link record identifying a source document and a list of one or more target documents pointed to by one or more outbound links in the source document; the link record including a source document identifier for the identified source document and one or more target document identifiers for the identified list of target documents; and

outputting a sorted anchor map that corresponds to the link log and that comprises a plurality of anchor records, each anchor record identifying a respective target document and a list of source documents that contain links to the respective target document; the anchor record including a respective target document identifier;

wherein the plurality of anchor records are ordered in the sorted anchor map based, at least in part, on their respective target document identifiers; and wherein each respective target document identifier in the plurality of anchor records corresponds to a target document identifier in the link log.

or

[from claim 42:] generating a link log that comprises a plurality of link records, each link record identifying a respective source document and a list of target documents pointed to by links in the respective source document; and

generating an anchor map that corresponds to the link log and that comprises a plurality of anchor records, each anchor record identifying a respective target document, a list of source documents that contain links to the respective target document, and a list of annotations associated with the links in the source documents that point to the respective target document; wherein each respective target document identified in the plurality of anchor records corresponds to a target document identified in the link log; and

processing at least a plurality of the anchor records, including, for each anchor record in the plurality of anchor records, adding to a document index entries for terms in the list of annotations in the anchor record, wherein the entries are associated with the target document identified by the anchor record.

Dolan does not disclose all of the limitations of the independent claims.

Dolan discloses a system and method for adding network links to a displayed hierarchical graph to provide an intuitive convenient navigation tool for users. See, Abstract. Like Bates, and unlike the current application, Dolan is directed to a graphical user interface for categorizing and displaying information in a hierarchical navigation structure.

The Office Action cites column 11, lines 43-55 of Dolan for presentation of a link hierarchy, including a navigation file comprising link records comprising at least parent and child pointers to associates URLs. This portion of Dolan describes a navigation file 322 representing the hierarchical structure of navigation graph 106, shown in Figure 2. The navigation graph 106 shows inter-relations between information items in the hierarchical

structure. See, column 5, lines 33-41. Dolan does not disclose the inverse of this file. Instead, Dolan teaches that the navigation file 322 should exclude "redundant links" including self-links and multiple links to the same information item. See, e.g. Figures 10, 11A, 11B, and 11C, column 19, lines 10-22, and column 21, lines 8-64. Thus, Dolan does not teach:

> outputting a sorted anchor map that corresponds to the link log and that comprises a plurality of anchor records, each anchor record identifying a respective target document and a list of source-documents that contain links to the respective target document; the anchor record including a respective target identifier;

and does not teach:

> wherein the plurality of anchor records are ordered in the sorted anchor map based, at least in part, on their respective target document identifiers

With respect to claim 42, Dolan does not teach:

> generating an anchor map that corresponds to the link log and that comprises a plurality of anchor records, each anchor record identifying a respective target document, a list of source documents that contain links to the respective target document, and a list of annotations associated with the links in the source documents that point to the respective target document;

and does not teach:

> processing at least a plurality of the anchor records, including, for each anchor record in the plurality of anchor records, adding to a document index entries for terms in the list of annotations in the anchor record, wherein the entries are associated with the target document identified by the anchor record.

For at least these reasons, the pending claims are allowable over Bates, either alone, or in combination with Dolan.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider this application with a view towards allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (650) 843-4000, if a telephone call could help resolve any remaining items.

Respectfully submitted,

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